Constitution and Digest

of the

Grand Chapter

of

Massachusetts

March 12, 1901

THIS COPY of the Constitution and Digest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts is for the use of the officers of the Chapter receiving it. It should be, at all times, in the Lodge Room for reference.

Per order,

Samuel F. Hubbard

Grand High Priest.

Attest:

J. Gilman Waite

Grand Secretary.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Grand Royal Arch Chapter

OF

MASSACHUSETTS

AS AMENDED MARCH 12, 1901

1902
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CONSTITUTION AND PARTICULAR REGULATIONS

OF THE

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS.

CONSTITUTION.

The officers and members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the better government and regulation of themselves and of the Chapters under this jurisdiction, do ordain and establish the following General and Particular Regulations:

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall consist of the following officers and members, whose rank and title shall be as herein set forth, to wit:

1. M.·. E.·. GRAND HIGH PRIEST.
2. R.·. E.·. DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST.
3. R.·. E.·. GRAND KING.

4. R.·. E.·. Grand Scribe.
5. M.·. E.·. Past Grand High Priests.
6. R.·. E.·. Past Deputy Grand High Priests.
7. R.·. E.·. Past Grand Kings.
8. R.·. E.·. Past Grand Scribes.
9. R.·. E.·. Grand Treasurer.
10. R.·. E.·. Grand Secretary.
11. R.·. E.·. District Deputy Grand High Priests.
12. E.·. and Rev.·. Grand Chaplains.
13. E.·. Grand Captain of the Host.
14. E.·. Grand Lecturers.
15. E.·. Grand Principal Sojourner.
16. E.·. Grand Royal Arch Captain.
17. E.·. Grand Masters of the Veils.
18. E.·. Grand Stewards.
19. Companion Grand Tyler.

All of whom together with the High Priests, Kings, Scribes, or their proxies, shall be entitled to vote as members of this Grand Chapter, the Grand Tyler excepted.

Sect. 2. The seal of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts shall be a circle two and one-sixteenth inches in diameter; on the upper outer circle the words "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts"; on the lower outer circle the date "March 13, 1798," with small Latin crosses between the upper and lower wording. Within an inner circle of triple triangles the breast-plate surmounted by a Jewish mitre; on the dexter side the pot and rod, and on the sinister side the book of the law, all of proper color.

ARTICLE II.

Section 1. The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall hold four Convocations in a year, to wit: on the Tuesday next preceding the second Wednesday in March, June, September, and December, of which the Convocation in December shall be the Annual Convocation, and the time for the choice of officers of whom the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by ballot; the others shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest so chosen.

All the officers, if present, shall be duly installed on that day, or at such other time as the Grand Chapter shall designate, and if any one of said officers shall be absent at the time of his election or appointment, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to forward due notice thereof, with a request that he shall signify his acceptance or refusal in writing within twenty days at least preceding the next regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and should any one of said officers decline the acceptance of the office assigned him, or neglect to give notice thereof within the time aforesaid, then such office shall be deemed vacant, and filled at the next regular Convocation of said Grand Chapter.

All other vacancies of office, by resignation or otherwise, shall be filled at the regular Convocation next succeeding the same.

Sect. 2. There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Funds of the Grand Chapter, consisting of the Grand Treasurer, and two Companions to be elected by ballot for the term of three years, and to constitute, during

that time, a permanent part of the Board, and provided a vacancy shall occur by death, resignation, or any cause, it shall be reported to the Grand Chapter at the next Quarterly Convocation, at which time the vacancy shall be filled. The Board of Trustees thus constituted shall be styled "The Trustees of the Funds of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts."

They shall carefully and judiciously invest the funds in such manner as in their best judgment shall be safest and most productive and shall select a suitable place of deposit for the securities and vouchers where their absolute safety from fire and theft shall be insured. The Board of Trustees shall keep a full and accurate record of the investments, and at each Annual Convocation they shall submit to the Grand Chapter a correct statement of the fund in detail, exhibiting its exact nature and condition.

SECT. 3. No officer or permanent member of the Grand Chapter shall be entitled to more than one vote, unless he be a High Priest, King, Scribe, or proxy of such, of a subordinate Chapter under this jurisdiction. A permanent member resuming office in Grand Chapter shall be entitled to one vote only.

ARTICLE III.

All Grand Officers at the time of their installation shall make the following declaration, "I, A. B., do solemnly promise and swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, and that of the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

ARTICLE IV.

In case of the absence of the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, it shall be the duty of the senior past officer of those grades respectively to preside; and in case of the absence of all the past officers, the High Priest of the oldest Chapter present shall preside.

ARTICLE V.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, or District Deputy Grand High Priest, unless he be a Past High Priest of a subordinate Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, or has heretofore held one of the aforesaid offices in this Grand Chapter, and no one of the officers here enumerated shall during his continuance in office be High Priest, King, or Scribe of a subordinate Chapter.

No person shall be eligible to an office in this Grand Chapter except he be a permanent member thereof, or a member of a subordinate Chapter under this jurisdiction.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest for more than three successive years.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. The Grand High Priest shall form the Chapters under this jurisdiction into districts, for each of which a District Deputy Grand High Priest shall be annually appointed. He shall be commissioned by the

Grand High Priest, with the seal of the Grand Chapter affixed and attested by the Grand Secretary, which commission shall be in force until the conclusion of the Annual Convocation in December and no longer.

Each District Deputy Grand High Priest shall visit the Chapters in his district, and inspect their Charter, By-laws, Records, Book of Marks, and mode of work, once a year at least and before the first day of December. He shall see that the returns of the several Chapters in the district are properly made out, and collect the amount due thereon from each Chapter, and shall transmit such returns and all moneys so collected to the Grand Treasurer on or before the first day of December in each year.

He shall be reimbursed his necessary expenses in making such visitations and also the expenses of a Companion who shall act as District Deputy Grand Captain of the Host.

SECT. 2. The Grand High Priest shall appoint one or more discreet and well-informed Companions to be styled Grand Lecturer, who shall be commissioned by the Grand High Priest, which commission shall be subject to the same limitations as those given to the District Deputy Grand High Priests.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer when requested by any subordinate Chapter to visit any Chapter under this jurisdiction, and instruct them in the lectures and mode of work; and the Chapter so employing him shall make him a reasonable compensation for his services.

It shall also be his duty, with such assistants as he may require, to rehearse the lectures and exemplify the

work of the several Chapter degrees on the day of the Annual Convocation in December, that the officers of the several Chapters may be fully acquainted therewith, and dispense the knowledge of them in a uniform and regular manner in their several Chapters.

The system established by the Grand Chapter and taught by the Grand Lecturer shall be the standard for the regulation of all Chapters under this jurisdiction, and no alteration shall be made in the work or lectures without permission of the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE VII.

SECTION 1. A committee of three shall be appointed at the Annual Convocation immediately after the installation of the Grand Officers to be styled the Auditing Committee, whose duty it shall be to examine and audit all bills presented against the Grand Chapter, together with the Grand Treasurer's, Secretary's and Trustees' accounts and books. They shall report at the ensuing Annual Convocation previous to the election of officers an account of the receipts and expenditures of the preceding year, with a statement of all funds belonging to the Grand Chapter.

SECT. 2. The Grand High Priest shall appoint annually a Committee on Charters and By-laws to consist of three members to whom shall be referred all petitions for new Chapters and all matters appertaining to the By-laws of the subordinate Chapters. They shall report at each Quarterly Convocation, recommending such action as may be required by the Grand Chapter. No By-law of any subordinate Chapter shall

be valid until the same shall be approved by the Grand Chapter.

SECT. 3. The Grand High Priest shall also appoint such other committees as may be found necessary, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Chapter. The first Companion chosen or appointed on any committee shall be chairman.

ARTICLE VIII.

SECTION 1. Every petition for a warrant to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall be signed by at least nine regular Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, which petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Chapter or Chapters whose jurisdiction will be affected, vouching for the moral character and masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending to the Grand Chapter to grant them a warrant. Such petition shall be countersigned by the District Deputy Grand High Priest within whose district the new Chapter is proposed to be located.

The Grand High Priest may grant his dispensation for the same, to be in force not exceeding twelve months, and during that time the members of said Chapter shall be examined with regard to their ability to perform the requisite duties by the Committee on Charters and By-laws; said committee to report to the Grand Chapter at its Quarterly Convocation next prior to the expiration of one year from the date of the dispensation.

If the Grand Chapter approve, the Grand High Priest may appoint a time for the consecration of said

Chapter and installation of the officers, and direct the Secretary to make out a charter to bear even date with the dispensation; and said Chapter shall pay fifty cents per month for the time it shall have held its warrant.

No charter shall be granted until its jurisdiction shall have been defined by the Grand Chapter, the same to appear in the printed proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

SECT. 2. If a majority of the members of any Chapter, at a regular Convocation notified for that purpose, shall vote to remove their Chapter to any other place, the Grand Chapter may sanction and authorize such removal if recommended by the Chapter or Chapters whose jurisdiction will be affected, and countersigned by the District Deputy Grand High Priest within whose jurisdiction the Chapter is located.

SECT. 3. The fees for a warrant for holding a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and opening Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, shall be ninety dollars; and the Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners five dollars for his services in executing the charter. The fees for the charter shall be paid upon receiving the dispensation.

SECT. 4. Before a charter for a new Chapter shall be issued by this Grand Body, the Grand High Priest shall be furnished with satisfactory evidence that the petitioners therefor intend to become members of the same, and they shall present dimits from the Chapter of their affiliation; or if they do not hold membership in any Chapter they shall present satisfactory certificates of their standing as Royal Arch Masons, and before they shall be entitled to the privileges of

membership in the new Chapter they must have signed the By-laws thereof.

And any one neglecting this duty for the space of six months shall be subject to ballot for membership in the same manner as is usual for Companions coming by dimit.

ARTICLE IX.

No warrant shall be granted by this Grand Chapter for holding a Mark Masters', Past Masters' or Most Excellent Masters' Lodge, independent of a Royal Arch Chapter.

ARTICLE X.

The several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall pay for the support thereof into the hands of the Grand Treasurer annually, the sum of six dollars, and also five dollars for every candidate advanced to the degree of Mark Master Mason in such Chapter, and they shall be entitled to one diploma for each candidate exalted.

ARTICLE XI.

SECTION 1. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons under this jurisdiction shall be represented by its High Priest, King, and Scribe, or either of them in person or by their respective proxies, at every Convocation of the Grand Chapter. If any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall fail to assemble once in any year, or shall neglect to be represented in this Grand Chapter for two years in succession, or shall fail for two successive years to make a return of its officers and

members and pay its dues to this Grand Chapter, then, and in either case of delinquency, the said Chapter shall forfeit to the use of this Grand Chapter its charter, with its records, jewels, regalia and furniture, together with its monetary and all other property of every description.

SECT. 2. The High Priest, King, and Scribe of any Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, when not able to attend the Convocations, shall appoint their proxies by a commission signed with their names to which their seal shall be affixed, which commission shall continue in force only during the year for which the said High Priest, King, or Scribe, was elected.

And said proxies shall be members in good standing of the Chapter of which the officer gives his proxy.

ARTICLE XII.

No candidate shall be exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason by any Chapter under this jurisdiction who shall not have first recorded his Mark in the Lodge Book, nor for a less sum than twenty-five dollars, and no candidate shall be balloted for until such fee shall be paid, and no note of hand shall be taken by any Chapter for the fees, or any part of the fees, due on the exaltation or advancement of any candidate.

ARTICLE XIII.

The application of any and every candidate who is a resident in this Commonwealth for exaltation in any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be made in

writing and signed by the applicant and be in the following form, to wit:

....Royal Arch Chapter.

To the Most Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe, and Companions of.....
R.·. A.·. Chapter.

I.....having received the Degree of Master Mason in.....
.....Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of.....having the good of the Craft at heart, and being desirous of obtaining further light in Masonry, do fraternally offer myself a candidate for the degrees conferred in your Chapter. Should my petition be granted, I promise a cheerful compliance with all the forms and usages of the Fraternity.

Where born.....
Date of birth.....
My place of residence is.....
Occupation.....
Place of business.....
Received the Degree of Master Mason.....A. D.
Member of.....Lodge
I have.....before applied for said Degrees to
.....R.·. A.·. Chapter.

The candidate will state the entire facts. If he has never before applied, he shall insert the words "never" and "any" respectively in the blank spaces above. If he has ever before applied he shall state the number

of times, and the name of the Chapter or Chapters respectively in the blank spaces. Applicant shall sign name in full, and not use initials.

Signed.....

.....A. D. 19

And said application shall be accompanied by the recommendation of at least three R.·. A.·. Masons and shall be in the following form, to wit:

We, the subscribers, hereby certify that we are acquainted with.....named in the above application, and believe him to be of regular and upright conduct, fair fame, sober life, and good moral character. We do therefore recommend him as a Master Mason worthy and well qualified to be exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason.

.....
.....
.....

Candidates must be proposed at a regular Convocation and stand proposed from one regular Convocation to another. unless a dispensation permitting other action shall be granted by the Grand High Priest."

No candidate shall be balloted for at any but a regular monthly Convocation, unless dispensation therefor shall be obtained from the Grand High Priest, and then only when written or printed sealed notification of the Convocation bearing the name, residence, and occupation of the candidate to be balloted for shall have been sent to all the members.

A Committee of Investigation consisting of three members of the Chapter shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to carefully and thoroughly investigate the moral character and standing of each applicant.

No ballot shall be taken until at least a majority of the committee shall have reported to the Chapter in person or in writing over their own signatures, and no candidate shall be received or admitted to the degrees without a unanimous vote in his favor.

ARTICLE XIV.

SECTION 1. A candidate for the degrees shall make application to the Chapter in the town or city where the applicant resides, if there be a Chapter therein, but if there be none, he shall apply to the Chapter holding jurisdiction nearest to his residence. The application of a person residing in a town or city where there is a Chapter shall not be received in any other town or city without the written consent and recommendation of the High Priest, King, and Scribe the of the Chapter or Chapters in the town or city where applicant resides; provided, however, that where there are more than two Chapters in the town or city, the consent and recommendation of two shall be sufficient.

SECT. 2. No Chapter under this jurisdiction shall receive for exaltation to the sublime degrees a candidate who is resident in another of the United States where Grand or Subordinate Chapters are established agreeably to the rules and regulations of the General Grand Chapter, except by the consent of the Chapter holding jurisdiction over the place of residence of said applicant.

ARTICLE XV.

An applicant to any Chapter under this jurisdiction for the sublime degrees, who is a foreigner, or not a resident of any of the United States where Chapters are held agreeably to the regulations of the General Grand Chapter of said States, must have his application written and signed by himself and four members of the Chapter to which he applies for exaltation, or by himself and six members of other Chapters under this jurisdiction. Any worthy Companion from without the jurisdiction of the United States who may present himself as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of his having received that degree, each and every Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter have liberty, and they are hereby authorized, to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master on such Companions (who have not heretofore received them), to the end that they may be healed, and thereby become regular Royal Arch Masons, free of charge, and the subordinate Chapter conferring said degrees free of charge shall be exempt from paying any dues therefor.

ARTICLE XVI.

No candidate whose application may be rejected in any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be again proposed in the same Chapter within six months after such rejection, nor in any Chapter other than that in which he was rejected, within five years, without a recommendation from nine members of said Chapter,

of whom the High Priest, King, and Scribe shall be three, and the consent of the Chapter. It shall be the duty of every Chapter under this jurisdiction to communicate all rejections of candidates to this Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE XVII.

SECTION 1. No Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted a member of any Chapter under this jurisdiction unless he shall have regularly received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

SECT. 2. No Royal Arch Mason shall be a member of two separate and distinct Chapters under this jurisdiction at one and the same time.

SECT. 3. No Chapter or assembly of Royal Arch Masons, that may be formed within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall be deemed legal without the sanction of a warrant from this Grand Chapter. Masonic communication, either public or private, is hereby strictly forbidden between any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, or between any member of said Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, and any Chapter or Lodge that may be so illegally opened, or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge.

The punishment for breach of any part of this article shall be expulsion and exclusion from the benefits of Royal Arch Masonry.

PARTICULAR REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE I.

At every Convocation of this Grand Chapter, previous to the transaction of any business, the Grand Chapter shall be opened in due form.

ARTICLE II.

Every member of this Grand Chapter, and representative thereto, must appear properly clothed as a Royal Arch Mason. The officers of subordinate Chapters who attend the Convocation of the Grand Chapter must appear clothed in their proper jewels.

ARTICLE III.

The Treasurer and Secretary shall receive for their services such compensation as this Grand Chapter may deem adequate.

ARTICLE IV.

The High Priest or presiding officer of a Chapter, when notified of the intended official visit of the District Deputy Grand High Priest, shall convene his Chapter, receive him as the Representative of the Grand Chapter, resign the chair to him while making his official visit, submit to his inspection the Charter, By-laws, Records, Book of Marks, and mode of work, and deliver to him the returns of the Chapter, and the dues to the Grand Chapter.

The Chapters under this jurisdiction shall make an annual return to their District Deputy Grand High Priests of their officers and members, of all candidates marked, passed, acknowledged, and exalted, agreeably

to the form established by this Grand Chapter; for which purpose suitable blanks shall be furnished.

Each Chapter shall pay to this Grand Chapter, for every candidate admitted to the degree of Mark Master, five dollars; and for any Companion having received a portion of the degrees in another jurisdiction, fifty cents for the Past Master's degree, fifty cents for the Most Excellent Master's degree, and two dollars for the Royal Arch degree.

ARTICLE V.

When any member of a Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be accused of any offence which if proved against him would subject him to suspension or expulsion, the proceedings in the premises shall be conducted agreeably to the following rules:

1st. The accusations shall be made in writing, under the signature of a Royal Arch Mason, and given in charge to the Secretary of the Chapter, who, under the direction of the High Priest, shall serve, or cause the accused to be served with an attested copy of the charges, fourteen days at least previous to the time appointed for his examination: provided the residence of the offending Companion shall be known, and shall be within the distance of twenty miles of the place where the Chapter is located. If the residence of the accused be at a greater distance than twenty miles, but within the State, then and in that case a summons to appear and show cause, forwarded to him by mail or other conveyance, twenty days at least before the time of trial, shall be considered sufficient service. If the

residence of the delinquent be unknown, the Chapter may proceed to examine the charges *ex parte*.

2d. The examination of the charges shall be had in a Chapter specially notified and convened for the purpose, at which no visitors shall be admitted, except as counsel or witnesses.

3d. The accused may select his own counsel, and the witnesses shall testify on their honor; hearsay evidence shall be excluded.

4th. The question, "Is the accused guilty or not guilty?" shall be distinctly put to each member of the Chapter by name, commencing with the youngest member. The answer shall be given standing, and in a distinct and audible manner. The Secretary shall record the answer as given.

5th. If the verdict be suspension or expulsion, the proceedings shall be sent up at the ensuing Convocation of this Grand Chapter for examination.

6th. A sentence of expulsion shall not take effect until confirmed by this Grand Chapter; but shall operate as a suspension of the delinquent.

7th. A Companion feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of a subordinate Chapter shall have the right of an appeal to this Grand Chapter, he having given due and timely notice to the subordinate Chapter of his intention so to appeal from its decision.

8th. Whenever this Grand Chapter shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a subordinate Chapter, suspending or expelling a Companion, and shall restore him to the benefits and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, he shall not thereby be restored to membership within the body from which he was suspended or expelled, without its unanimous consent.

9th. In all respects other than those here specified the proceedings shall be conducted agreeably to the regulations of ancient craft Masonry.

ARTICLE VI.

Each Chapter under this jurisdiction shall have a seal, which shall be affixed to all communications made to this Grand Chapter, and to all credentials which may be given by such Chapter to any member thereof.

ARTICLE VII.

Whenever the By-laws of any Chapter require the names of candidates to be inserted in the notifications, a dispensation from a Grand Officer does not render such an insertion unnecessary.

ARTICLE VIII.

All motions made in the Grand Chapter, the determination of which may require to be recorded, shall be handed in writing to the Secretary, who shall present them to the presiding officer for the time being.

ARTICLE IX.

No vote of the Grand Chapter shall be reconsidered by a less number of voters than were present at the passing of the same.

ARTICLE X.

The fee for a dispensation to elect officers of a subordinate Chapter at other than the Regular Convocation shall be five dollars; provided that should such Convocation occur upon a legal holiday, no fee shall be charged.

ARTICLE XI.

The Grand Secretary shall not deliver Diplomas, except on the written order of the Secretary of the particular Chapter for whose use they are intended; and such order shall specify the number wanted, together with the fact that the Diplomas shall be delivered to candidates exalted since June 12, 1883.

The Secretary of every Chapter shall report with the Annual Returns the name of each and every candidate receiving a Diploma during the year, the date of his exaltation, the date of delivery of Diploma, and the number of Diplomas on hand on the 31st of August, annually.

ARTICLE XII.

For the better preservation of the charters of Chapters under this jurisdiction, which are likely to become defaced by age or wear, any subordinate Chapter may provide itself with a copy of its charter, and, when the same shall have been duly certified by the Grand Secretary, such Chapter may and hereby is authorized to use this certified copy of its charter for all Chapter purposes except on the occasion of the visitation of an officer of the Grand Chapter, or the installation of the officers of the Chapter, when the presence of the original shall be required.

ARTICLE XIII.

This Constitution shall not be altered or amended, unless such alteration or amendment be proposed, in writing, at one regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and at a subsequent regular Convocation receive the approval of two-thirds of the members then present.

FORM OF PROXY TO THE

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Be it known, That, pursuant to the authority given me by the

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS,

I ... .
of.....
R.·. A.·. CHAPTER, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint Companion.....
of.....
to represent me at the meetings of said Grand Chapter, to be holden at Boston, on the.....day of.....

Confirming the acts of said Companion in his capacity aforesaid, I pray that he may enjoy all the privileges and protection to which I am entitled.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this.....
day of.....A. D. 1.....

(Name)

.....Seal.

(Office)

.....

The Constitution of the Grand Chapter requires that a proxy at the time of his appointment must be a member of the same subordinate Chapter as his principal, and must present a properly authenticated certificate of his appointment.

Every High Priest, King, and Scribe, if unable to attend in person, can appoint his proxy.

INSTALLATION CEREMONIES.

INSTALLATION CEREMONIES.

INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF A CHAPTER.

The Grand High Priest, or other duly authorized officer, presides; and the Chapter is opened on the Royal Arch Degree. The Grand Captain of the Host, or person acting as such, or a Past High Priest, presents the High Priest elect to the Presiding Officer, and says:

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST: I present you Companion . . . . , elected to be installed High Priest of this Chapter. I find him to be skilful in the Royal Art, and attentive to the moral precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt but he will discharge the duties of his office with fidelity.

The High Priest elect then turning and facing the Companions, the Presiding Officer says:

COMPANIONS: You now behold before you Companion . . . . , who has been elected to serve this Chapter as Most Excellent High Priest, and who now declares himself ready for installation. If any of you have any reasons to urge why he should not be installed, you will make them known now, or else forever hereafter hold your peace. Hearing no objections, I shall proceed to install him.

The Presiding Officer then addresses him as follows:

MOST EXCELLENT: I feel much satisfaction in performing my duty on the present occasion by installing you into the office of High Priest of this Chapter. It is an office highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties annexed to it. Your reputed Masonic knowledge, however, precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties. I shall therefore only observe that by a frequent recurrence to the Constitution and General Regulations, and constant practice of the several sublime Lectures and Charges, you will be best able to fulfil them; and I am confident that the Companions who are chosen to preside with you will give strength to your endeavors, and support to your exertions. I shall now propose certain questions to you relative to the duties of your office, to which I must request your unequivocal answer.

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your Companions who have attained this sublime degree?

2. That you will never suffer your Chapter to be opened, unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons?

3. That you will never suffer a greater or less number than three brethren to be exalted in your Chapter at one and the same time?

4. That you will not exalt any one to this degree who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition; or who has not made a considerable proficiency in the foregoing degrees?

5. That you will promote the general good of our Order, and, on all proper occasions, be ready to give and receive instructions, particularly from the General and State Grand Officers?

6. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave in open Chapter, with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your Companions?

7. That you will not acknowledge or have intercourse with any Chapter that does not work under a constitutional warrant or dispensation?

8. That you will not admit any visitor into your Chapter who has not been exalted in a Chapter legally constituted, without his being first formally healed?

9. That you will observe and support such by-laws as may be made by your Chapter, in conformity to the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution and the General Regulations of the Grand Chapter?

10. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the General and State Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several Lectures and Charges, and will resign the chair to them, severally, when they may visit your Chapter?

11. That you will support and observe the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the General Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, under whose authority you act?

Do you submit to all these things, and do you promise to observe and practise them faithfully?

Answer. I do.

Companion Captain of the Host, you will conduct the High Priest elect to the altar to receive the benefit of prayer and to take his official obligation.

The Grand Chaplain is then conducted to the altar and offers the following

Prayer.

Most holy and glorious Lord God, the Great High Priest of Heaven and Earth:

We approach thee with reverence, and implore thy blessing on the Companion appointed to preside over this Chapter, and now prostrate before thee; fill his heart with thy fear, that his tongue and actions may pronounce thy glory. Make him steadfast in thy service; grant him firmness of mind; animate his heart and strengthen his endeavors; may he teach thy judgments and thy laws; and may the incense he shall put before thee, upon thine altar, prove an acceptable sacrifice unto thee. Bless him, O Lord, and bless the work of his hands. Accept us in mercy; hear thou from Heaven thy dwelling-place, and forgive our transgressions.

Glory be to God on high.

Response. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. So mote it be. Amen.

The Presiding Officer then administers the following obligation to the High Priest elect:

"I, ... , do promise and swear that I will serve this Chapter as High Priest for the time that I have been elected; that I will perform all the duties appertaining to that office to the best of my abilities, and

will support and maintain the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of . . . . and that of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, and the By-Laws of this Chapter."

(Companions are now seated.)

The Grand High Priest will then cause the High Priest to be invested with the clothing and badges of his office, and will address him as follows:

I now invest you with this *Breastplate*, in imitation of that upon which were engraven the names of the Twelve Tribes, and worn by the High Priest of Israel, which is to teach you that you are always to bear in mind your responsibility to the laws and ordinances of the institution, and that the honor and interests of your Chapter and its members should be always near your heart.

I present you with the Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses, the three great lights in every degree of Masonry. The doctrines contained in this sacred volume create in us a belief in the dispensations of Divine Providence, which belief strengthens our faith, and enables us to ascend the first step of the Grand Masonic Ladder. This faith naturally produces in us a hope of becoming partakers of the promises expressed in this inestimable gift of God to man, which hope enables us to ascend the second step. But the third and last, being Charity, comprehends the former, and will continue to exert its influence when Faith shall be lost in sight, and Hope in complete enjoyment.

By the Square and Compasses we are taught to circumscribe our desires, and practise the duties of friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

I now deliver into your hands the Charter under which you are to work; you will receive it as a sacred deposit, and never permit it to be used for any other purposes than those expressed in it.

I present you with the Constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of this Commonwealth, and also with the By-Laws of your Chapter. You will cause all these to be frequently read and punctually obeyed. The Records of the Chapter you will cause to be carefully and correctly kept.

Lastly, I present you with this Mallet, a blow of which will command attention and restore order in the Chapter.

Let the *Mitre* with which you are invested remind you of the dignity of the office you sustain, and its inscription impress upon your mind a sense of your dependence upon God; — that perfection is not given unto man upon earth, and that perfect holiness belongeth alone unto the Lord.

The *various colors* of the *Robes* you wear are emblematical of every grace and virtue which can adorn and beautify the human mind.

And now, Most Excellent, in consequence of your cheerful acquiescence in the charges just recited, I declare you duly installed High Priest of this Chapter, not doubting your determination to support the honor and reputation of our sublime Order.

(The High Priest is seated.)

Permit me, therefore, in behalf of the Craft here assembled to offer you our sincere congratulation on your accession to the honorable station you now fill. I doubt not you will govern with such order and regularity as to

convince your Companions that their partiality has not been misplaced.

Companions of . . . . Chapter, behold your High Priest. (They rise and bow, or if the installation be not public, salute him with the honors of Royal Arch Masonry.) Recollect that the prosperity of your Chapter will as much depend on your support, assistance and obedience as on his assiduity, fidelity and wisdom.

[The same call is made to the King and Scribe, for objections; the same obligation (with the necessary variation of title) which had been taken by the High Priest is taken by each of the officers, and each is presented as follows:

Most Excellent: I hereby present Companion . . . . . , who has been duly elected to serve this Chapter for the ensuing Masonic year, and who now declares himself ready for installation.]

Charge to the King.

Excellent Companion: The important station to which you are elected in this Chapter requires from you exemplary conduct; its duties demand your most assiduous attention; you are to second and support your chief in all the requirements of his office; and in his absence to succeed him in the performance of his duties.

Your badge (the Level surmounted by a Crown) should remind you that, although you are the representative of a King, and exalted by office above your Companions, yet that you remain upon a level with them, as respects your duty to God, to your neighbor, and to yourself; that you are equally bound with them to be obedient to the laws and ordinances of the institution; to be

charitable, humane and just, and to seek every occasion of doing good.

The *Scarlet Robe*, an emblem of imperial dignity, should remind you of the paternal concern you should ever feel for the welfare of your Chapter, and the *fervency* and *zeal* with which you should endeavor to promote its prosperity.

In presenting to you the *Crown*, which is an emblem of royalty, I would remind you that to reign sovereign in the hearts and affections of men must be far more grateful to a generous and benevolent mind than to rule over their lives and fortunes; and that, to enable you to enjoy this pre-eminence with honor and satisfaction, you must subject your own passions and prejudices to the dominion of reason and charity.

You are entitled to the second seat in the council of your Companions. Let the bright example of your illustrious predecessor in the Grand Council at Jerusalem stimulate you to the faithful discharge of your duties; and when the King of Kings shall summon you into his immediate presence, may you receive from his hand a *crown of glory*, which shall never fade away.

Charge to the Scribe.

EXCELLENT COMPANION: The office of Scribe, to which you are elected, entitles you to the third seat in the council of your Companions. In the absence of your superior officers, you are bound to succeed them, and to perform their duties. You will, therefore, studiously endeavor to acquire such knowledge as will enable you

to discharge the various duties which may devolve upon you in their absence.

The *Purple Robe*, with which you are invested, is an emblem of *union*; and should remind you that the harmony and unanimity of the Chapter should be your constant aim; and as the glorious sun, at its meridian height, dispels the mist and clouds which obscure the horizon, so may your exertions tend to dissipate the gloom of jealousy and discord, whenever they may appear.

Your badge (a Plumb-rule surmounted by the Turban) is an emblem of rectitude and vigilance; and while you stand as a watchman on the tower, to guard your Companions against the approach of those enemies of human felicity, *intemperance* and *excess*, let this faithful monitor ever remind you to walk uprightly in your station; encouraging and admonishing your Companions to fidelity and industry while at labor, and to temperance and moderation while at refreshment. And when the Great Watchman of Israel, whose eye never slumbers nor sleeps, shall relieve you from your post on earth, may He permit you in heaven to enjoy the companionship of saints and angels forever in his presence.

Companion Captain of the Host, you will assemble the remaining officers elected and appointed around the altar for obligation.

Charge to the Chaplain.

COMPANION: You are appointed Chaplain of this Chapter; and I now invest you with this circular jewel, the badge of your office. It is emblematical of eternity,

and reminds us that here is not our abiding-place. Your inclination will undoubtedly conspire with your duty, when you perform in the Chapter those solemn services which all created beings should constantly render to their infinite Creator, and, when performed in a spirit of reverence and sincerity, may, by refining our morals, strengthening our virtues, and purifying our minds, prepare us for admission into the society of those above, whose happiness will be as endless as it is perfect.

Charge to the Treasurer.

COMPANION: You are elected Treasurer of this Chapter, and I have the pleasure of investing you with the jewel of your office. The qualities which should recommend a Treasurer are *accuracy* and *fidelity;* accuracy, in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements; fidelity, in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Chapter that may be placed in his hands, and rendering a just account of the same, whenever he is called upon for that purpose. I am confident that your respect for the institution, your attachment to the interests of your Chapter, and your regard for a good name, which is better than precious ointment, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office. And when your final account is rendered and you are summoned to the Grand Chapter above, may you receive the welcome greeting: Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

Charge to the Secretary.

COMPANION: With pleasure I invest you with your jewel as Secretary of this Chapter. The qualities which should recommend a Secretary are *promptitude* in issuing the notifications and orders of his superior officers, *punctuality* in attending the convocations of the Chapter, *correctness* in recording their proceedings, *judgment* in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be committed to writing, *regularity* in making his annual returns to the Grand Chapter, *integrity* in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands, and *fidelity* in paying the same over into the hands of the Treasurer. The possession of these good qualities, I doubt not, has designated you as a suitable candidate for this important office; and I feel sure that you will discharge its duties beneficially to the Chapter, and honorably to yourself. And when you shall have completed the record of your transactions here below, and finished the term of your probation, may you find your name *recorded* in the *Book of Life Eternal.*

Charge to the Captain of the Host.

COMPANION: The office with which you are intrusted is of high importance, and demands your most earnest consideration; and it is indispensably necessary that the part assigned to you, in the immediate practice of our rites and ceremonies, should be perfectly understood and correctly administered.

Your office corresponds with that of Marshal or Master of Ceremonies. You are to superintend all processions of your Chapter, when moving as a distinct body, either in public or private, and as the world can judge of our private discipline only by our public deportment, you will be careful that the utmost order and decorum be observed on all such occasions. You will ever be attentive to the commands of your chief, and always near at hand to see them duly executed. I invest you with the jewel of your office, and presume that you will give to your duties all that study and attention which their importance demands.

Charge to the Principal Sojourner.

COMPANION: The office intrusted to you, though subordinate in degree, is equal in importance to any in the Chapter, that of your chief alone excepted. It corresponds to that of Senior Deacon in the preparatory degrees. Among the duties required of you, the preparation and introduction of candidates are not the least. As in our intercourse with the world experience teaches that first impressions are often the most durable and the most difficult to eradicate, so it is of great importance in all cases that those impressions should be correct and just; hence it is essential that the officer who brings the blind by a way that they know not, and leads them in paths that they have not known, should always be well qualified to make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

Your office teaches that in the prosecution of a laudable enterprise we should never decline taking any part

that may be assigned us, although it may be the most difficult or dangerous, and that when we have engaged in a virtuous cause, notwithstanding all the hardships and trials we may be destined to encounter, we should ardently and steadfastly persevere unto the end, resting assured of receiving, at the termination of our labors, a noble and glorious reward. Your past exertions will be considered as a pledge of your fidelity in the discharge of your duties, and with pleasure I invest you with the jewel of your office.

Charge to the Royal Arch Captain.

COMPANION: Your office corresponds with that of Junior Deacon in the preparatory degrees. You are to obey the commands of the Captain of the Host during *the introduction of strangers among the workmen;* so that should they be permitted to pass your post, they may be conducted by him into the presence of the Grand Council.

The *White Banner*, intrusted to your care, is emblematical of that purity of heart and rectitude of conduct which ought to actuate all those who pass the white veil of the sanctuary. I give it to you strongly in charge never to suffer any one to pass your post without the *signet of truth.*

I present you the jewel of your office and arm you with this sword, in expectation of your performing your duties with intelligence and courage.

Charge to the Master of the Third Veil.

COMPANION: I present you with the *Scarlet Banner*, which is the ensign of your office, and with a sword to

protect and defend the same. The rich and beautiful color of your banner is emblematical of *fervency* and *zeal;* it is the appropriate color of the Royal Arch Degree, and admonishes us that we should be fervent in the exercise of our devotions to God, and zealous in our endeavors to promote the happiness of man.

Charge to the Master of the Second Veil.

COMPANION: I invest you with the *Purple Banner*, which is the ensign of your office, and arm you with a sword to enable you to maintain its honor.

The color of your banner is produced by a due mixture of *blue* and *scarlet;* the former of which is the characteristic color of the *symbolic* or *first three degrees of Masonry*, and the latter, that of the *Royal Arch Degree*. It is an emblem of *union*, and admonishes us to cultivate and improve that spirit of union and harmony which should ever distinguish the members of a society founded upon the principles of everlasting truth and universal philanthropy.

Charge to the Master of the First Veil.

COMPANION: I invest you with the *Blue Banner*, which is the ensign of your office, and a sword for its defence and protection. The color of your banner is one of the most durable and beautiful in nature. It is the appropriate color adopted and worn by our ancient brethren of the three symbolic degrees, and is the *peculiar characteristic* of an institution which has stood the test of ages, and which is as much distinguished by the

durability of its materials or principles as by the beauty of its superstructure. It is an emblem of universal *friendship* and *benevolence;* and instructs us that, in the mind of a Mason, those virtues should be as expansive as the blue arch of Heaven itself.

Charge to the Three Masters of the Veils, as Overseers.

COMPANIONS: As Overseers of the work, you should be well qualified to judge of its beauties and defects. This consideration should induce you to cultivate and improve all those qualifications with which you are already endowed, as well as to persevere in your endeavors to acquire those in which you are deficient. Let no work receive your approbation but such as is calculated to strengthen and adorn the Masonic edifice. Be industrious and faithful in practising and disseminating a knowledge of the *true and perfect work*, which alone can stand the test of the *Grand Overseer's Square*, in the great day of trial and retribution. Let the various *colors* of the *banners* committed to your charge admonish you to the exercise of the several virtues of which they are emblematic. Enjoin the practice of those virtues upon all who shall present themselves, or the *work* of their hands, for your *inspection*. Then, although every *rod* should become a *serpent*, and every serpent an enemy to this Institution, yet shall their utmost exertions to destroy its reputation, or sap its foundation, become as impotent as the *leprous hand*, or as *water spilled upon the ground*, which cannot be gathered up again.

Charge to the Stewards.

COMPANIONS: You are appointed Stewards of this Chapter, and I now invest you with the jewels of your office. You will see that every necessary preparation is made for the convenience and accommodation of the Chapter, previous to the time appointed for meeting, and that proper care is taken of the paraphernalia at the close of each convocation. You will see that all Companions are properly entertained at refreshment, and perform such other service as may be required; and I have no doubt that a faithful performance of these humble duties will recommend you for future preferment.

Charge to the Organist.

COMPANION: You are appointed Organist of this Chapter, and I invest you with this jewel of your office. Under the direction of the High Priest you will conduct the musical exercises of the Chapter. As harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, so may the harmony over which you shall preside strengthen and support every gentle and ennobling emotion of the soul.

Charge to the Tyler.

COMPANION: You are appointed Tyler of this Chapter, and I invest you with the jewel and this implement of your office. As the sword is placed in the hands of the Tyler to enable him effectually to guard against the approach of all *cowans and eavesdroppers* and suffer none

to pass or repass but such as are *duly qualified*, so it should morally serve to admonish us to set a guard over our thoughts, a watch at our lips, to post a sentinel over our actions, thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word or deed, thus preserving consciences void of offence towards God and man.

As the first application from visitors for admission into the Chapter is generally made to the Tyler at the door, your station will often present you to the observation of strangers; it is, therefore, essentially necessary that he who sustains the office with which you are intrusted should be a man of good morals, steady habits, strict discipline, temperate, affable and discreet. I trust that a just regard for the honor and reputation of the Institution will ever induce you to perform with fidelity the trust reposed in you; and when the door of this earthly tabernacle shall be closed, may you find an abundant entrance through the gates into the temple and city of our God.

The Grand High Priest then delivers the following

Address to the High Priest.

MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION: Having been honored with the free suffrages of the members of this Chapter, you are elected to the most important office which it is within their power to bestow. This expression of their esteem and respect should draw from you corresponding emotions; and you should repay the honor they have so conspicuously conferred upon you by an honorable and faithful discharge of your duties. You must be sensibly

aware that the public reputation of the Institution will be generally found to rise or fall according to the skill, fidelity, and discretion with which its concerns are managed, and as the characters and conduct of its principal officers are estimable or censurable.

You have accepted a trust to which is attached a responsibility that will require all your efforts to discharge honorably to yourself and satisfactorily to the Chapter. You are to see that your officers are capable and faithful in the exercise of their duties. Should they lack ability, you are expected to supply their defects; and to see that the long-established customs of the Institution suffer no derangement in their hands. You are to have a careful eye over the general conduct of the Chapter; see that due order and subordination are observed on all occasions; that the members are properly instructed; that due solemnity is observed in the practice of our rites; and that no improper levity is permitted at any time, but more especially during the *introduction of strangers among the workmen.*

In fine, you are to be an example to your officers and members, which they need not hesitate to follow; thus securing to yourself the applause of your Companions and the favor of Heaven.

Address to the Officers Generally.

Companions in Office: Precept and example should ever advance with equal pace. Those moral duties which you are required to teach, you should never neglect to practise.

Let your conduct towards your associates be such as to merit their esteem and respect. Let your desire to obtain knowledge be equalled by a willingness to instruct others. Do you desire distinction among your Companions? Be sure that your claims to preferment are founded upon superior attainments; let no ambitious passion induce you to envy or supplant a Companion who may be considered as better qualified for promotion than yourselves, but rather let a laudable emulation induce you to strive to excel each other in improvement and discipline, ever remembering that he who faithfully performs his duty, even in a subordinate or private station is as justly entitled to esteem and respect as he who is invested with supreme authority.

Charge to the Chapter.

Companions: The character and good standing of your Chapter is so well established that I must presume this consideration alone, were there no others of greater magnitude, would be sufficient to induce you to maintain this valuable and honorable reputation. But when to this is added the pleasure which every philanthropic heart must feel in doing good, in promoting good order, in diffusing light and knowledge, in cultivating Masonic and Christian charity, which are the great objects of this sublime Institution, I cannot doubt that your future conduct, and that of your successors, will be such as to increase the lustre of your justly-esteemed reputation.

May your Chapter become *beautiful* as the *temple*, *peaceful* as the *ark*, and *sacred* as its *most holy place.*

May your oblations of *piety* and *praise* be *grateful* as the *incense*, your love *warm* as its *flame*, and your charity diffusive as its fragrance. May your hearts be *pure* as the *altar*, and your conduct *acceptable* as the *offering*. May the exercise of your *charity* be as constant as the returning wants of the distressed *widow* and helpless *orphan*. May the approbation of Heaven be your encouragement, and the testimony of a good conscience your support; may you be endowed with every good and perfect gift, while *travelling* the *rugged path* of life, and finally be *admitted within the veil* of Heaven, to the full enjoyment of life eternal. So mote it be. Amen.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST: Companion Grand Captain of the Host, you will make the customary proclamation.

The Grand Captain of the Host then makes the following proclamation:

In the name of the most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, I hereby proclaim the officers of . . . . Chapter to be duly installed into their respective offices with the private Grand Honors of Royal Arch Masonry,* by three times three.

The private Grand Honors are then given.

* If the installation takes place in public, the expression will be "with the public Grand Honors of Masonry, by three times three," and the public Grand Honors will be given.

DIGEST OF CAPITULAR LAW

ADOPTED BY THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEC. 9, 1902.

APPLICATIONS: An application having been presented and referred cannot be withdrawn, either by unanimous consent or otherwise, but must be acted upon by report of committee and ballot, provided that if at any time before or after the ballot, and before initiation, it is discovered that the petitioner does not live within the jurisdiction of the Chapter, or is not of lawful age, further proceedings must be stopped and the application dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

No Chapter under this jurisdiction shall confer the chapter degrees upon any Mason whose physical defects are such as to prevent him from receiving and imparting the ceremonies of the several degrees.

Should objection be made to the advancement of a candidate after he shall have received one of the chapter degrees, it shall be the duty of the High Priest to order the Companion so objecting to file written charges forthwith; and the Chapter shall proceed to investigate said charges, and if the same shall not be proven, the degree shall be conferred upon said Companion as if said charges had not been made.

BY-LAWS.

Every Chapter chartered by this Grand Chapter shall adopt by-laws for its government; and the same must conform to the Constitution and laws of the Grand Chapter. Such Chapter shall, in its by-laws, fix the time of its stated meetings, the fees for the several degrees, the annual dues of its members, the time for the election of officers, and such other regulations as may be deemed for the best interests of the Chapter.

BALLOTS: In balloting all members of the Chapter present must vote unless excused.

In balloting for degrees or membership, the High Priest may allow three ballotings at his discretion. If, after a report of the committee on application, there should only two dissenting votes appear, the ballot may be repeated, and if one black ball shall then appear, another ballot may be ordered; and if one black ball shall then appear, the candidate must be declared rejected.

In a ballot for officers, a blank piece of paper, or a vote for an ineligible candidate, thrown into the ballot-box contains no expression of the will, desire or preference of the voter, and is not to be counted as a vote.

BALLOTS SECRET: The ballot must be held absolutely sacred and no member shall be required to give his reasons for the ballot which he has deposited, nor disclose the manner in which he voted under any circumstances whatever.

MUST BALLOT: All petitions for the degrees or affiliation must be balloted upon, whether the committee report favorably or unfavorably, except in cases of no jurisdiction or physical disqualification.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE BALLOT: Any time previous to the ballot on an application for the degrees or membership, the High Priest shall, on request in writing of a member who is unavoidably absent, or for other good cause, postpone the ballot thereon until the next regular convocation, but no longer.

BALLOTING CANNOT BE POSTPONED: The balloting on a petition, when once commenced, cannot be postponed, but must be completed and the result thereof declared. Neither can it be reconsidered.

AMEND BY-LAWS: A chapter has the right to revise, alter or amend its by-laws in the manner provided in such by-laws. If no provision is made therein for such alteration or amendment, it may be done by a majority vote after such proposition to amend has been submitted in writing at a stated meeting and has lain over for one month; but all such amendments must be approved by the Grand Chapter.

CANNOT SUSPEND BY-LAWS: No Chapter can suspend its by-laws or any of them.

APPEAL FROM THE HIGH PRIEST'S DECISION: No appeal can be made to a Chapter from a decision of a

High Priest. His decision can be reviewed only by the Grand High Priest during the recess of the Grand Chapter subject to final action by the Grand Chapter, or by appeal directly to the Grand Chapter.

APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC: No Chapter in this jurisdiction shall appear in public for any purpose except on funeral occasions, or for installation of officers, without the consent of the Grand Chapter or dispensation of the Grand High Priest.

BUSINESS: Any business may be transacted in open Chapter in any of the degrees except the election and installation of officers, and visitation of Grand Officers, which must be on the Royal Arch degree.

OBJECTION TO VISITORS: No visitor can be admitted into a Chapter, if a member of such Chapter, who is present, objects; provided that no objection shall be valid against any grand officer visiting in an official capacity; nor against any one specially deputed by the Grand High Priest to visit said Chapter; nor against a Royal Arch Mason in good standing who is acting as counsel for a Companion on trial. Such objection shall not extend beyond the meeting at which it is made, and shall not be recorded.

RECONSIDERATION: A Chapter may reconsider any vote at the same or next succeeding stated meeting; provided that the same has not gone into effect, and that due notice of such proposed action be given.

SEAL: Every chartered Chapter must have a seal, and all official papers issued by the Chapter must be attested by an impression of the same.

STANDARD WORK: Every Chapter shall practise the work as adopted by this Grand Chapter and exemplified by the Grand Lecturers. The ritual of the degree of Past Master shall be confined exclusively to the text as laid down by the Grand Chapter, and shall be conferred without any intermission or interruption in the order of progression. In the Royal Arch Degree the candidates for exaltation shall be under the exclusive control of the proper officers and without interference by any other person. Any Chapter wilfully violating these provisions shall be subject to discipline.

SUMMONS: A summons issued by a Chapter must be written or printed and under the seal of the Chapter and need not contain anything beyond the requisition to attend.

On complaint of a Royal Arch Mason the Chapter may issue a summons to the party accused and try and sentence him subject to the approval of the Grand Chapter.

Every Royal Arch Mason is bound to obey the summons of his Chapter and present himself before them, if within the scope of his ability.

OFFICERS.

CHAPTERS MUST BE OPENED FOR INSTALLATION: An installation of the officers cannot be held either in public or in private without first opening the Chapter. The Records of the Chapter must show the installation of its officers, and Records should only be made of business transacted while the Chapter is in session.

INSTALLING OFFICERS: None but present or past High Priests are qualified to install the officers of a Chapter.

ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE: Every member in good standing shall be eligible to any office in the Chapter.

LENGTH OF SERVICE: The officers of a Chapter are elected to serve for a term of twelve months, except when chosen to fill vacancies, and in all cases shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and installed.

RESIGNATION: Neither the High Priest, King or Scribe of a Chapter can resign, but any other officer may do so. An installed officer cannot dimit while in office.

MEMBERSHIP.

A ROYAL ARCH MASON A MEMBER WHERE EXALTED: A Royal Arch Mason exalted in this jurisdiction shall be *ipso facto* a member of the Chapter which exalted him without further ballot, except where the work has been done by request of, and for, another Chapter, in which case the Companion will thereby become a member of the Chapter which made the request.

DIMITS: A dimit is the severance of Chapter membership. A member desiring a dimit must make a written application for the same. If he has paid all dues, is clear upon the books, and no charges are preferred against him, it must be granted. A dimitted Companion may apply to any Royal Arch Chapter for membership.

A Companion from abroad, applying for membership here, must have a dimit from the Chapter of which he had previously been a member, if such Chapter be in existence. He must make application in the usual form, deposit his dimit with application, and if elected the dimit becomes the property of the Chapter electing him to membership.

FAILURE OF CANDIDATE TO PRESENT HIMSELF: A petitioner for the degrees who fails to present himself for the degrees within six months after he shall have been duly notified of his election, shall forfeit the fee paid, provided he does not give good reason for his failure to appear; and of the sufficiency of his reason, the majority of the members present must judge; and provided further,

if the time exceed one year, the previous election shall be void; but if such candidate make satisfactory excuse to the Chapter he may regularly petition again without repayment of the fee.

OBJECTION TO ADVANCEMENT: All objections to advancement, after a degree has been conferred, shall be recorded, together with the name of the objector. Any such objecting Companion shall prefer charges against the party objected to, based on the grounds of his objection, within two months after the date of filing the same, and a trial shall be had thereon without delay. Should such objecting Companion fail or refuse to prefer charges within the time specified, the Chapter shall have the right to proceed in conferring the remaining degrees unless objections on other grounds are made by some Companion.

A candidate for such advancement, against whom objection has been duly made, cannot receive a certificate of dimission, nor can the Chapter waive its jurisdiction over him while the objection remains in force.

OBJECTIONS TO CONFERRING DEGREES: In case of objection to the conferring of the degrees on a candidate who has been elected, unless the objector announces his objections as temporary and only for the purpose of further inquiry, it shall be considered as having the effect of a black-ball; the fee shall be returned, and the candidate may be permitted to petition again after the expiration of six months from the date of objection.

OBJECTION BEFORE REFERENCE TO A COMMITTEE: After a petition for the degrees or membership is read,

and before a Committee of Investigation has been appointed, it is the right of a member to object to the application being received, in which case the High Priest shall order it to be returned to the applicant without further action on the part of the Chapter; but such objection shall not prevent the petitioner from again petitioning at a subsequent meeting.

DEGREES, WHEN TO BE WORKED: The degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason can only be conferred on candidates at a Regular, or Special, Convocation, and must be worked in full.

Written or printed notice of a Special Convocation must be sent to all members of the Chapter; and no business can be transacted other than that borne upon the notice.

SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES: Any member in arrears for dues may be suspended from membership, at a regular convocation of the Chapter, by a majority vote of members of the Chapter present; provided that he must first have been properly notified by the Secretary, under seal of the Chapter, of his delinquency, and of the time and place of the proposed action thereon at least thirty days before action is taken.

The payment of dues shall reinstate a suspended Companion. The Secretary shall report the same to the Chapter and the fact of such payment shall be noted in the Records; provided, also, that no Companion who shall remain in arrears one year after his suspension

shall be reinstated except by a majority vote of the members of the Chapter present at time of his application for reinstatement and until all past dues are paid or remitted.

MASONIC CALENDAR

Ancient Craft Masons commence their era with the creation of the world, calling it ANNO LUCIS (A. L.), "in the year of light."

Scottish Rite, same as Ancient Craft, except the Jewish chronology is used, ANNO MUNDI (A. M.), "in the year of the world."

Royal Arch Masons date from the year the second temple was commenced by Zerubbabel, ANNO INVENTIONIS (A. I.), "in the year of the discovery."

Royal and Select Masters date from the year in which the temple of Solomon was completed, ANNO DEPOSITIONIS (A. Dep.), "in the year of the deposit."

Knights Templars commence their era with the organization of their order, ANNO ORDINIS (A. O.), "in the year of the order."

Order of High Priesthood date from the year of the blessing of Abraham by the High Priest Melchizedek, ANNO BENEFACIO (A. B.), "in the year of the blessing."

RULES FOR MASONIC DATES

Ancient Craft Masons. Add 4000 years to the common era. Thus: 1902 and 4000—5902.

Scottish Rite. Add 3760 to the common era. Thus: 1902 and 3760—5662. After September add another year.

Royal Arch. Add 530 years to the vulgar era. Thus: 1902 and 530—2432.

Royal and Select Masters. Add 1000 to the common era. Thus 1902 and 1000—2902.

Knights Templars. From the Christian era take 1118. Thus: 1118 from 1902—784.

Order of High Priesthood. To the Christian era add 1913, the Year of Blessing. Thus: 1902 and 1913—3815.

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